

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 02947 111120Z

50

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SSO-00 PM-07 INR-10 INRE-00 SP-03

/048 W

----- 043402

O R 111033Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8529

INFO SECDEF

CIA

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2947

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: MILITARY INCIDENTS IN MR-III NORTH OF SENO

REF: VIENTIANE 2924

1. THE FIRST CLASHES FOLLOWING THE INSTALLATION OF THE PGNU HAVE RECEIVED FRONT PAGE TREATMENT IN THE LOCAL AND BANGKOK PRESS. THE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE IN AN AREA 35 KILOMETERS NORTH OF SENO IN MR-III NEAR THE IMPORTANT SAI BANG FAI BRIDGE (VD 988878) ON ROUTE 13.

2. FAR SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT FIVE ATTACKS BY NVA/PL UNITS TOOK PLACE AT LOCATIONS 35-45 KILOMETERS NORTH OF SENO, BEGINNING AT 0700 APRIL 7 AND LASTING UNTIL 1530 APRIL 8. TWO OF THE CLASHES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN PROBES OF FAR POSITIONS AT WD 080866 AND WD 052873, ON APRIL 7.

3. MAJOR GROUND ATTACKS WERE ALSO MADE BY AN ESTIMATED THREE NVA/PL COMPANIES ON A FRIENDLY POSITION 45 KILOMETERS NORTH OF SENO AT 0700 AND AGAIN AT 1900 APRIL 7. THESE ATTACKS FORCED FAR TROOPS FROM THEIR  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 02947 111120Z

POSITIONS AT WD 118870.

4. ON APRIL 8 AT 1500 ANOTHER FAR UNIT 35 KILOMETERS NORTH OF SENO CAME UNDER ATTACK BY AN ESTIMATED THREE NVA/PL COMPANIES SUPPORTED BY MORTAR AND ROCKET FIRE. THE FAR UNIT WAS PUSHED FROM ITS POSITION AT VD 965755. FAR CASUALTIES IN THIS ATTACK WERE TWO KIA AND THREE WIA WITH THE NVA/PL LOSING NINE KIA AND NINE WIA. THE MR-III CHIEF OF STAFF SAID THAT PLANS WERE UNDERWAY TO LAUNCH AN OPERATION TO RETAKE THE LOST POSITIONS, BUT THAT APPROVAL HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED.

5. COMMENT: THE FIGHTING OCCURRED IN A LONG-CONTESTED AREA WHICH HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF CLASHES FOR THE PAST YEAR. THE MOST RECENT CLASHES ARE PROBABLY AN ESCALATION ARISING FROM LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES. DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK RAISED THIS INCIDENT AT THE APRIL 10 FIRST CABINET MEETING OF THE NEW PGNU. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI, SPEAKING FOR THE LPF SIDE, RESPONDED THAT IN FUTURE SUCH INCIDENTS WOULD BE INVESTIGATED BY MOBILE TEAMS OF JCIA, ACCORDING TO RLG SPOKESMAN OUDAY AT PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY. CLASHES APPEAR TO HAVE DIED OUT AT PRESENT TIME AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEY REPRESENTED ANY MAJOR MILITARY MOVE BY COMMUNIST SIDE. THERE IS TO BE A BOUNDARY STAKE IMPLANTED IN THE VICINITY OF THESE CLASHES UNDER THE LAOS PROTOCOL AND THE PATHET LAO MAY HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS CIRCUMSTANCE. WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL USINFO.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, COALITION GOVERNMENT, COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974VIENTI02947  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740083-0962  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740446/aaaabqau.tel  
**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** VIENTIANE 2924  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Aug-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MILITARY INCIDENTS IN MR-III NORTH OF SENO  
**TAGS:** MOPS, LA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005